

Finale

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It hasn't been long since *Caraval* has ended, but the effects could not be more everlasting. With the fates freed from the cards and Legend now atop the throne, a happy ending seems hopeless. Especially for Donatella (Tella) Dragna (16), who not long ago discovered the one person to ever capture her heart never really existed. With everything on the line, choices must be made and Tella will have to decide who to trust, who to go up against and who to give her heart. All while her sister, Scarlett, makes her own choices over a secret that has changed her forever. Time is running out, but the game is more twisted than ever as Tella and Scarlett are too far in to back out. Who is willing to give up everything to gain it all as the sun sets and the curtains fall on this finale.

Being the end to an incredible trilogy, I had high hopes for *Finale* and to see how everything would play out. That being said, those hopes were exceeded for the most part and *Finale* kept me anxiously awaiting the next page every time I picked it up. With a story so full of twists and drama, it was even more difficult to see how it would end. Once again, I fell in love with Tella's character and her growth in this book plays perfectly off of the events of the last one. She truly is the star of this entire series and I found myself more than excited anytime I began a chapter involving her. As always the world building for this series is one of its biggest highlights and *Finale* only continues to build that strength. In particular, I really enjoyed being able to learn a little more about The Fates in this book as opposed to the last, especially Jacks, who also became a favorite character of mine.

There are a few things I disliked about *Finale*, although they aren't enough to deter my high rating for the book. The first thing is the ending of the book itself. Without giving anything away, I wasn't exactly pleased with how things turned out and not because I disliked what happened but just because it felt like it could have been a little bit more developed. With the high pace of the story and all the things at stake, the ending felt a little too rushed and not in line with the endings of the previous books. Like I mentioned before, it's not enough to say it ruined the book, but if I could change it, I probably would. In addition, I had hopes for Scarlett's character, especially after the previous book in which I found her to be cast aside as an expense to Donatella's development. Given that this was the final book, I was hoping that with Tella developed from the second book and Scarlett from the first, we would finally be able to see development and growth for both of the sisters. However, *Finale* to me felt more like Tella's book than it did Scarlett, which disappointed me as I genuinely enjoy both of them. While reading, I found myself feeling a sense of disappointment anytime I began a chapter based around Scarlett and her portions of the plot. I'm not exactly sure what happened, if maybe Tella was just such a good character to me that Scarlett couldn't compare or if maybe there was a bigger issue within the story of the entire series.

Overall, *Finale* is a good ending to an even greater series. While maybe not as up to par as *Legendary*, I still enjoyed this book a lot and was sad to see the trilogy end. Like the previous

two books, I would recommend this for a teenage audience due to its more mature dialogue and plot points. This book would make an excellent gift if given with the other two books and I would certainly purchase it over renting.

Recommended Titles:

- The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern
- Throne of Glass* by Sara J. Mass
- The Wish Granter* by C.J. Redwine
- Serpent and Dove* by Shelby Mahurin
- Sorcery of Thorns* by Margaret Rogerson